

Reference List for Virginia One Stop and Partner Staff that may assist Hurricane Katrina Evacuees: (As of 9/9/2005 7:00 AM)

Note: This is not an all-inclusive listing of resources that may be available, but is being provided to address questions most likely to be asked of one stop staff. Information may be corrected or expanded in updated versions. The assumption in developing this list is that it would be for staff people who would have phone and internet access to be able to assist individuals who do not.

General

Individuals should first register FEMA and with the local Red Cross chapter if they have not already done so:

www.fema.gov or 1-800-621-FEMA (TTY 800-465-7585)

www.redcross.org - feature on website allows you to search for nearest office by zip code

Insert Local Red Cross Number here for individuals to use:

Basic Supportive Services

The Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS) will be responsible for issuing guidelines to localities for providing assistance to evacuees. DSS is working with local departments of social services to provide benefits and services to those who come to Virginia. The agency also is assessing social services resources and working with the faith-based and community organizations to determine how they can help.

Contact the local DSS for the latest information or go to www.dss.virginia.gov for updates and to locate nearest office.

Insert local DSS Office number for individuals to use: _____

At Fort Picket, DSS will be the lead agency coordinating all human services.

Health Issues

Refer individuals with public health-related questions/concerns to the nearest Health Department Office. A directory is at: <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/LHD/LocalHealthDistricts.asp>

Insert local Health Department number for individual to use: _____

Unemployment Benefits/Job Service

Local offices of the Virginia Employment Commission will assist evacuees in filing for Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), and job search information. For nearest office location, search by zip code at:

http://www.vec.virginia.gov/vecportal/field/field_offices.cfm

Insert local VEC number for individual to use: _____

At Fort Pickett, VEC staff will be on site to process claims for individuals that come through that location. Job search assistance may be limited due to the short term that individuals are expected to be at Fort Pickett.

Small Business/Property Owner Assistance

The Small Business Administration (SBA) can offer loans to businesses of all sizes and non-profit organizations are available up to \$1.5 million to repair damage to real estate, machinery, equipment and inventory. Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) are also available to small businesses unable to pay bills or meet operating expenses. Loans of up to \$200,000 can also be possible to repair disaster damaged primary residences. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to replace personal property such as furniture and clothing. Loans

Residents and business owners in the affected areas can begin the disaster application process by registering online with FEMA at www.fema.gov, or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free numbers will operate 24 hours daily until further notice. Details on the location of recovery centers and loan application deadlines will be provided as the information becomes available. For more information, visit SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/disaster.

Education

Local school division superintendents have been directed to enroll school-age children left homeless by Hurricane Katrina who are staying with relatives or family friends in Virginia. School divisions are to treat these families and students as though they were homeless, as defined by the federal McKinney-Vento Act. Under The McKinney-Vento Act, homeless students are enrolled immediately and subsequent efforts are made to obtain birth records, required immunizations, documentation of health examinations, and scholastic records.

School divisions are advised that homeless students may not be charged tuition under state law and neighboring school divisions have been requested to cooperate to provide the classroom capacity required to accommodate evacuated students.

Tax Information/Documentation

The Internal Revenue Service has announced the establishment of a special toll-free telephone number for use by taxpayers affected by Hurricane Katrina. Callers to this dedicated telephone

line can find out about available tax relief, get free copies of their tax return transcripts and receive Disaster Tax Loss Kits. Callers may also be referred to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's assistance lines for additional help. People affected by Katrina who need help with tax matters can call 1-866-562-5227. Taxpayers can call the special number Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm local time.

Legal Advise

If individuals are seeking legal help because of the disaster, the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division/FEMA has established toll-free numbers, depending on which state the individuals have come from: **Alabama: 1-800-354-6154, Louisiana: 1-800-310-7029, Mississippi: 1-866-255-4495.** *PLEASE NOTE: Due to the volume of calls into the Northern Gulf Coast region, these numbers may not connect upon each attempt.*